



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0001

March 30, 2016

**Ex Parte**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Lifeline Modernization; WC Docket No. 11-42**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 30, 2016, I spoke with Mr. Trent Harkrader of the Wireline Competition Bureau about the draft Order to Modernize the Lifeline program and eligibility for Federal Public Housing Assistance program participants. This letter is being filed to memorialize that conversation. Also, this letter is submitted subject to the exemption to filings during the sunshine period pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 1.1203(a)(4).

Upon review of the fact sheet summarizing the proposed Order to Modernize the Lifeline program, I note that the list of federal programs that would be used to validate Lifeline eligibility would no longer include the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) "Federal Public Housing Assistance" program. It is critical that HUD-assisted residents be allowed to participate in the modernized Lifeline program.

Currently, HUD is implementing an initiative to narrow the digital divide for residents in HUD-assisted housing. As part of this initiative, HUD has developed a database of publically accessible public housing information that could be used by an Internet service provider (ISP) to validate eligibility for a low-cost, high-speed offer. This would allow an ISP to auto-enroll HUD-assisted residents and make adopting broadband a much simpler and efficient process — a big step toward narrowing the digital divide for the poorest Americans.

This HUD database could be incorporated into the database to be used by the National Eligibility Verifier contemplated in the proposed Order to Modernize the Lifeline program. Indeed, we believe that the HUD database could effectively help to centralize the FCC's efforts to verify a household's eligibility.

HUD is committed to working with the FCC and the National Eligibility Verifier to continue to narrow the digital divide and to make government more efficient.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Greenblum", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert F. Greenblum  
Senior Policy Advisor to Secretary Castro